

# Best research for best health: a University perspective

Professor Don Nutbeam  
27 November 2009

# What do we mean by **evaluation**?

A systematic process of judging the **value** of something – there is no single “correct” method.

# What do we mean by evaluation?

- Different people place value on different things
- All value effectiveness, but
  - **Policy makers** and budget managers place value on the relationship between investment and short-term outcomes from intervention
  - **Clinicians and health practitioners** place value the practicality of implementation - convenience and flexibility in application

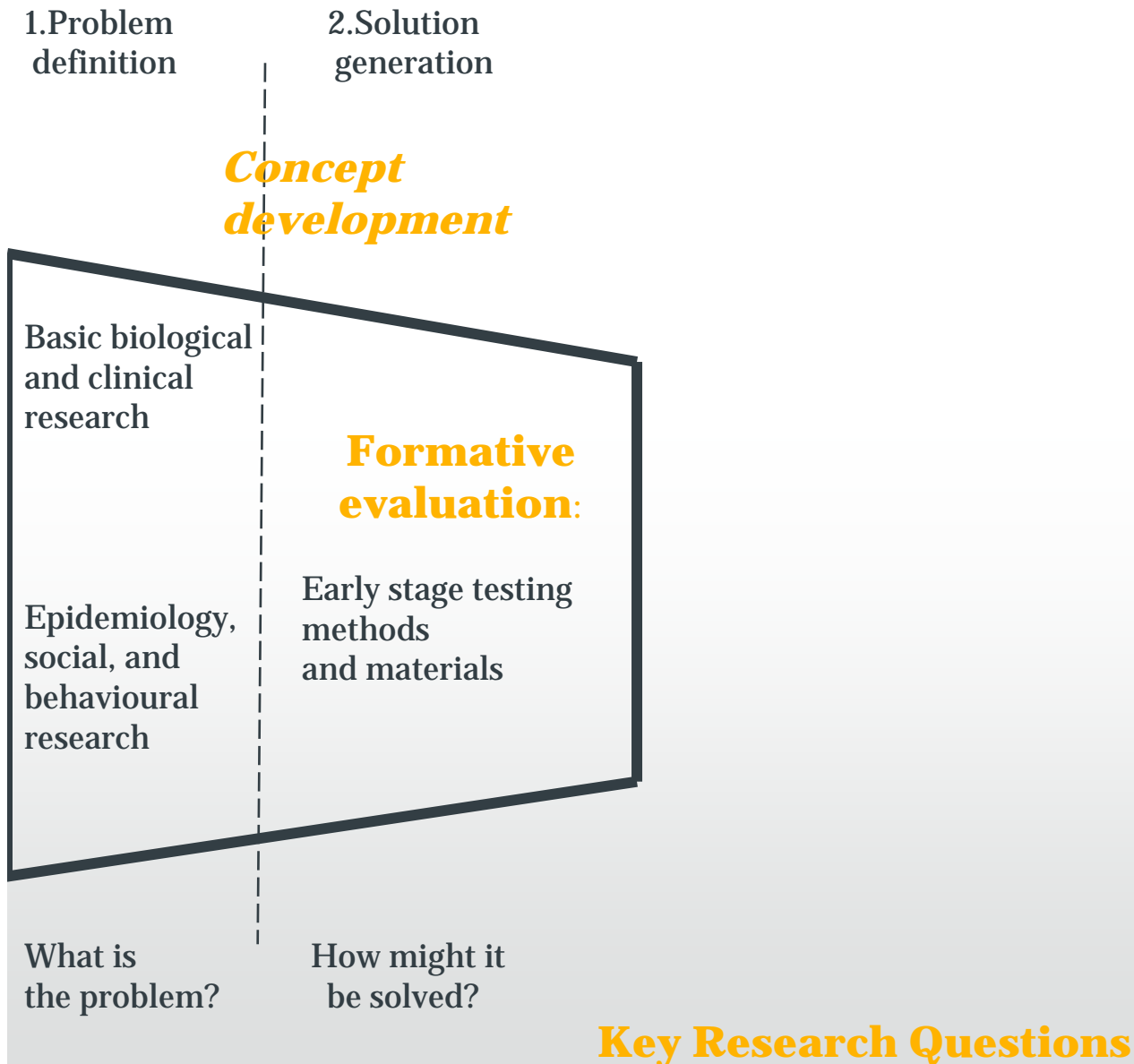
# What do we mean by evaluation?

- **The public and individuals** who are to benefit from intervention value relevance to their perceived needs, practicality and simplicity
- **Academic researchers** value methodological rigor, maintenance of research integrity and achievement of pre-determined outcomes

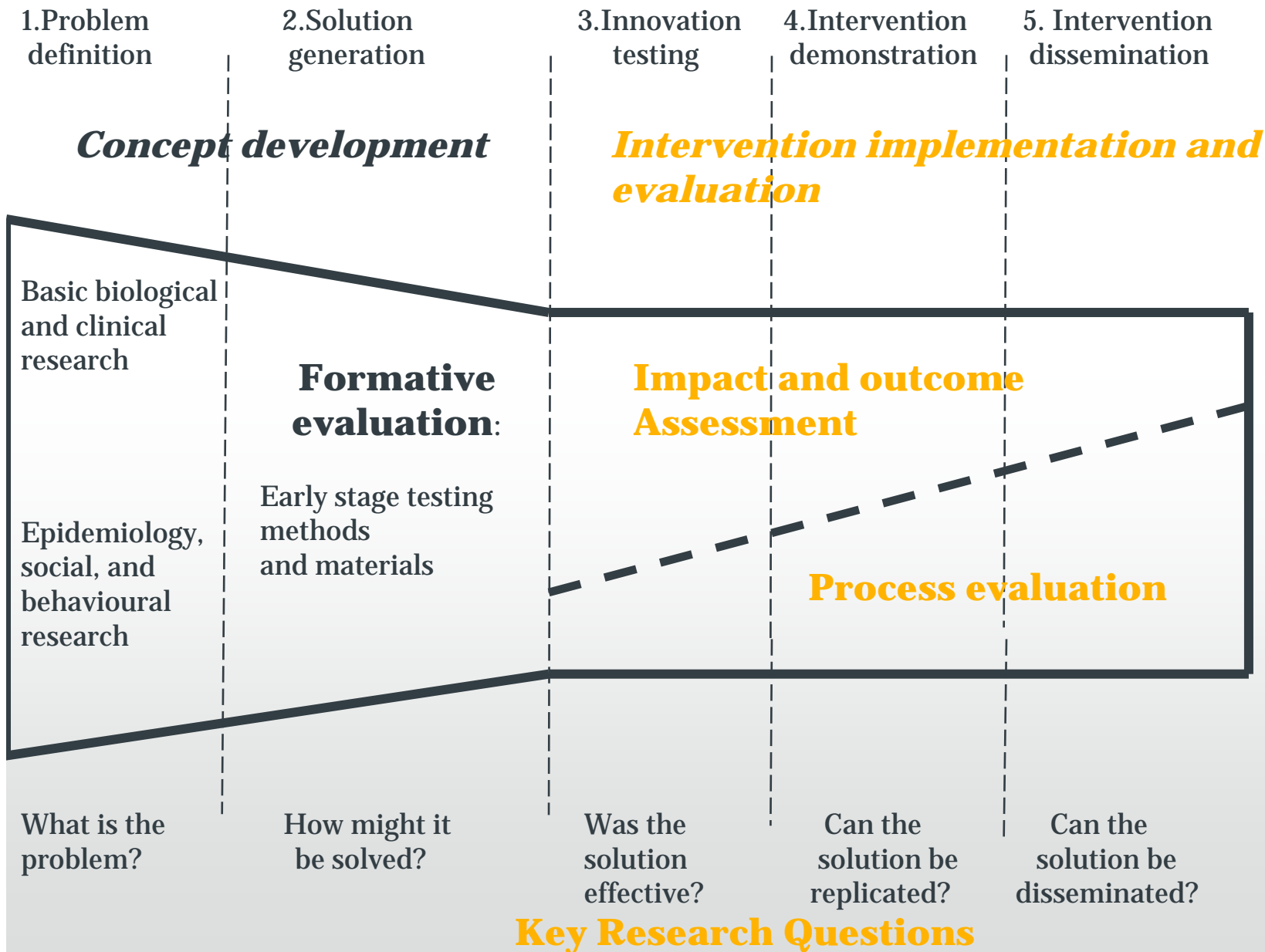
**There are a wide range of purposes of evaluation**

# Building evidence for health interventions

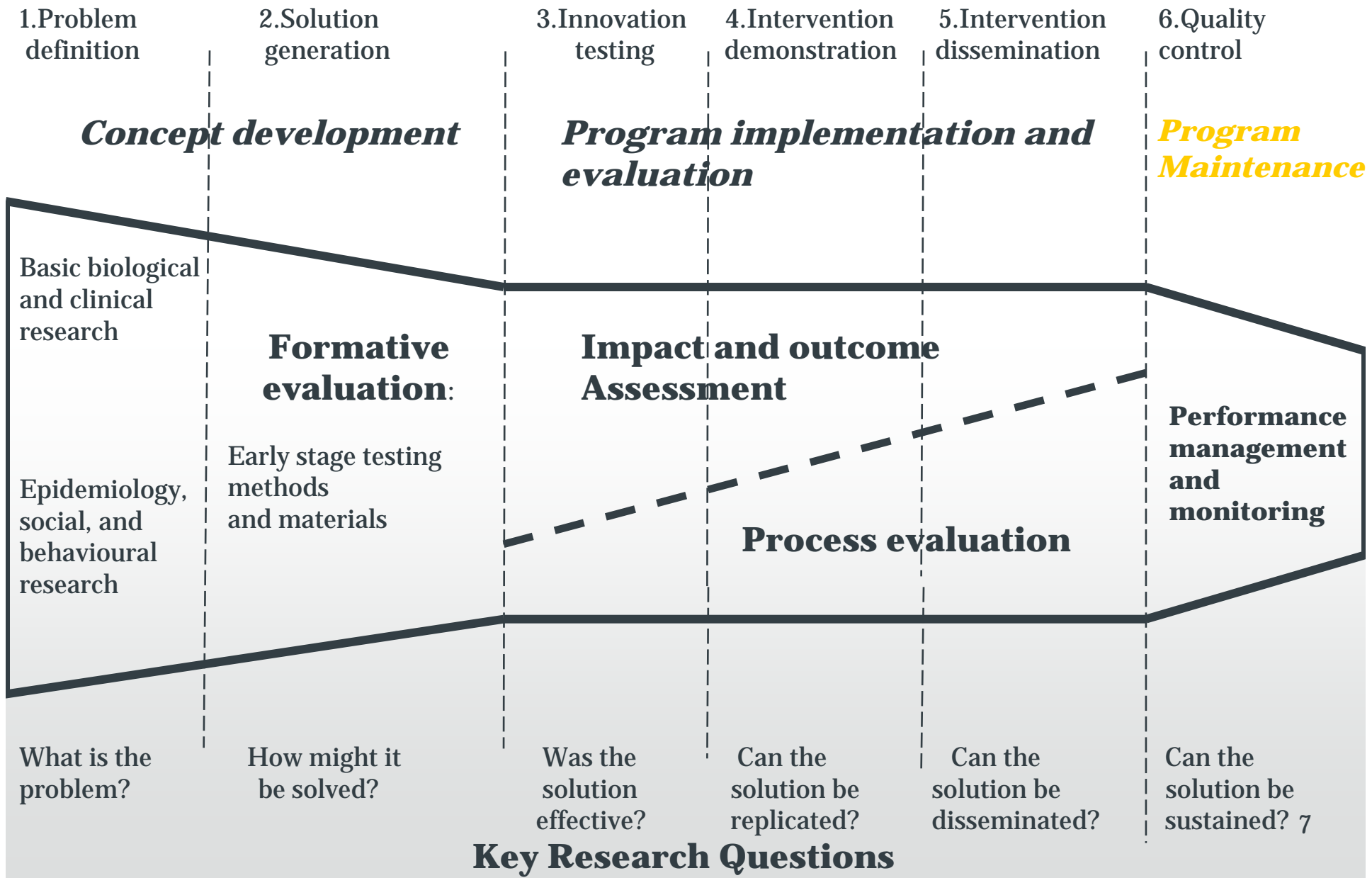
## Stages of Research and Evaluation



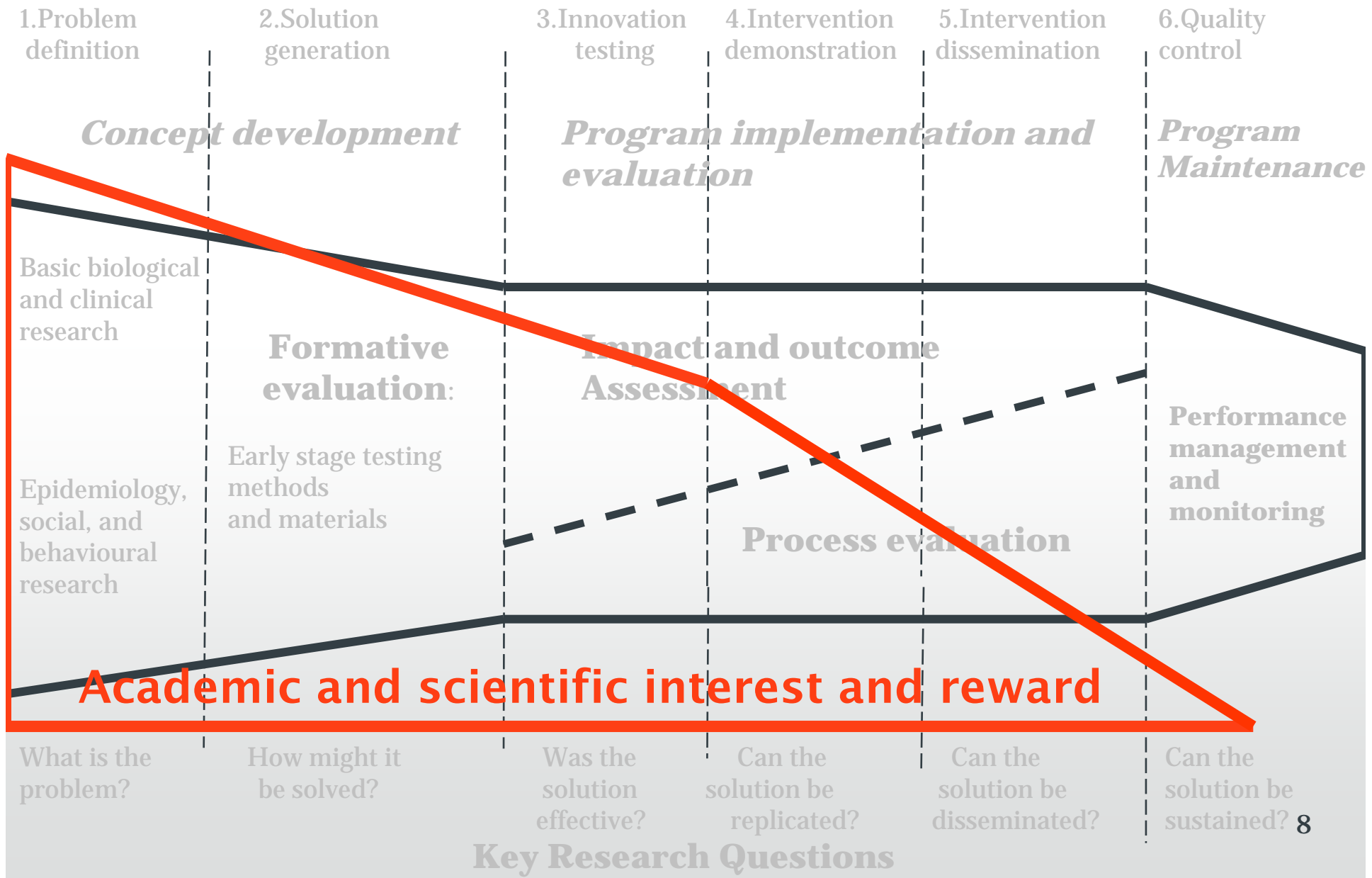
# Building evidence for public health programs: Stages of Research and Evaluation



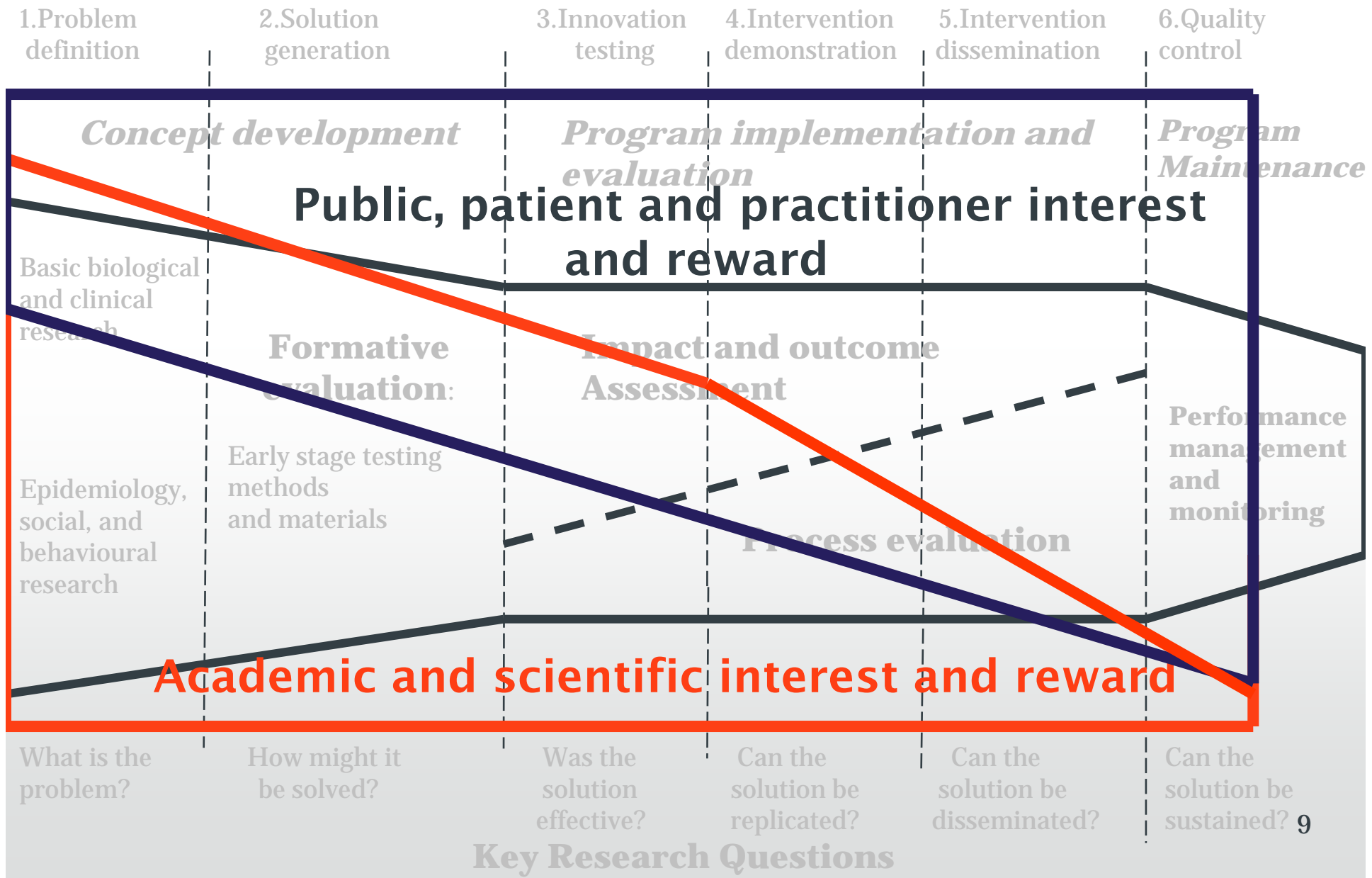
# Building evidence for public health programs: Stages of Research and Evaluation



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## Key elements of the model

- Different stages in the development of ideas require research to answer different questions
- Type of research needs to be related to stage of development of a program
- Measuring outcome and tracing causality of greater interest to academics, policy makers
- Understanding the processes of implementation and how to create conditions for success are of greater interest to practitioners and community

# Concluding remarks

## Inadequacies of current intervention research

- Current research is heavily directed towards the left of the model – reflecting access to funds and reward
- Focus on controlled trial methodology and limited measurable outcome measures often leads to regressive intervention methods (single risk, single method, single setting)
- Change process insufficiently studied or described

# Concluding remarks

What do we need to do?

- Need careful debate about the nature of “evidence” in public health intervention
- Encourage more intervention research
- Reflect complexity of effective intervention in the development of research methods and outcome measurement
- Combine research methods (quantitative, with qualitative), and “build” evidence derived from a much richer base of knowledge and experience than if often advocated